

Buffalobur

Solanum rostratum Dun.

Nightshade family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Deeply lobed watermelon type leaves
- ❑ Yellow, 5-lobed flowers through out summer
- ❑ Extremely spiny plant including stems, leaves and round seed pods
- ❑ Grows up to 2 feet tall with erect stem and ascending branches



Biology and ecology

- An annual with a tap root
- Native to U.S. but not to Washington State
- Common in some western wastelands and prairies
- Serves as a host for Colorado potato beetle
- Common on sandy soils but grows in most soils
- Occasionally found in gardens in our area probably introduced as a seed contaminant
- Not a highly competitive species and may not reproduce well in our climate



Control

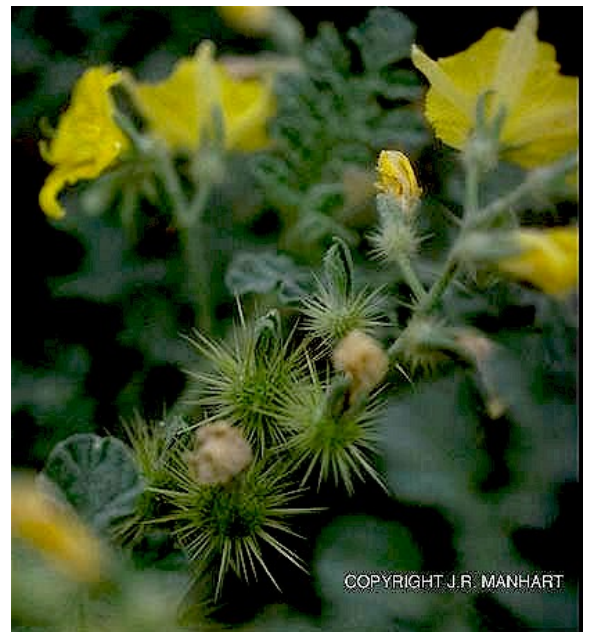
Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of unusual or unintended plants in gardens and around bird feeders

Biological - none contemplated for this U.S. native; should have natural enemies already in native areas

Cultural - Good competitive vegetative cover helps

Mechanical - Cultivation, pulling and repeated cutting all work well; be careful to avoid puncture wounds from spines

Chemical - Several work well at label rates; care must be used if in a garden site to avoid off target plant damage



Where found – To date in Stevens County, found exclusively in garden settings or the odd plant under bird feeders with one or two individual plants being reported most years. Believed to be a contaminant seed in garden seed packets and birdseed mixtures.